

WEEK 6

COMPARISON

There's something in us that likes to look down on others. We "Facebook stalk" people so that we can check out everything from their vocation to their vacations to see how we measure up against them. We use social media to ridicule and gang up on those who have different opinions than the ones we hold. We may not be convinced we're a good person, but our comparison games help us recognize that we're not a bad person. At least we're not as bad as *those* people. We don't need to be in first place; we just like the assurance that we're not in last place.

As Jesus dined in the house of Simon the Pharisee (Luke 7), an amazing thing happened. A sinful woman from the town decided to crash the party. She ran up to the table where Jesus was sitting and began weeping at His feet. When the tears proved they weren't enough to wash His feet, she took out an expensive bottle of perfume and began to anoint them. As the aroma of the perfume began to fill the room, so did the scent of scandal. Didn't Jesus realize who this woman was? Didn't He know what kind of woman she was? To Simon and the others, this woman's posture on the floor represented her worth. She was nothing. She was beneath them.

No one would dare to vocalize thoughts like these. But the truth is, we've all had them. We look down on people. We elevate ourselves at the expense of others. Jesus confronts us the same way He confronted the crowd in Simon's house. He reminded them that sin has brought us all low. It has made all of us debtors. It's left every one of us on the floor. Staring at those we think are beneath us only keeps us from pointing them to the One who lifts us all up. The barrier of comparison falls when we remember that we've all been rescued—and none of us did the rescuing. That's why MOVE calls us to live differently: to worship fully without pride, to connect deeply in groups without judgment, to serve sacrificially with humility, and to give generously so that others can experience the same grace we've been given.

PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Read Luke 7:36-50. How did the crowd react to the sinful woman? How do we have the same reaction to those we believe are beneath us today?

Why do you think we feel the need to compare ourselves to other people? Why can't we just be content with who we are and who Jesus has created us to be?

Are you more likely to view people the way the Pharisees did or the way Jesus did? How can you begin to see people more through Jesus' eyes?

In what ways can comparison keep us from moving with Jesus? How does comparing ourselves to others prevent us from being 100% engaged in the mission?

What would it look like for you to move with Jesus today? Is there a step of contentment you've been hesitating to take?

Read This Week's Text
LUKE 7:36-50

Check Out This
Week's Video



